

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1141

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Duane Allen, Joe Bonsall, William Lee Golden, and Richard Sterban of the Oak Ridge Boys for their contributions to the world of music and this country.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich music heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the shores of the Mississippi, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, one such legendary musical group with a rich Tennessee History is the Oak Ridge Boys, which, for their last thirty-five illustrious years, have consisted of Duane Allen, Joe Bonsall, William Lee Golden, and Richard Sterban; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Quartet originated in the city of Oak Ridge during World War II; by the early 1960s, membership had changed several times, and the new group configuration had moved to Nashville and taken the name Oak Ridge Boys; and

WHEREAS, it is the present day artists of Mr. Allen, Mr. Bonsall, Mr. Golden, and Mr. Sterban who have settled new ground in the American music landscape; their four-part harmonies and upbeat songs, spanning the genres of pop, country, and gospel, have sold more than thirty million records and spawned twenty-five number one hits, including *Elvira*, *American Made*, *Bobbie Sue*, and *Y'all Come Back Saloon*; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade the Oak Ridge Boys have further expanded on their unique American legacy of musical excellence intertwined with patriotism, family values, and community outreach, evincing the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2003, they released a patriotic CD titled “Colors,” featuring songs, such as *This is America*, *G.I. Joe and Lillie*, *Thank God for Kids*, *An American Family*, and *The Star Spangled Banner*; and

WHEREAS, they subsequently toured 170 cities throughout the United States and Canada as The Oak Ridge Boys Red, White, and BlueBlocker Tour; the following year, the group set out for another twelve months, performing at major state fairs, auditoriums, and theaters under the auspices of the Red, White, and BlueBlocker Journey; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, *Colors*, the title cut from the Oak Ridge Boys’ third album on Spring Hill Music, was nominated for a Grammy in the category of Best Country Performance by a Group or Duo with Vocals, and the Gospel Music Association nominated the “Colors” album for Country Album of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the Oak Ridge Boys were deservedly named the Musical Ambassadors of the National Association for Music Education National Anthem Project in 2005, a multi-year effort to re-teach The Star Spangled Banner to all Americans; they have performed their stirring rendition of the national anthem at ballparks, football fields, and raceways across the United States; and

WHEREAS, these venerable gentlemen have hosted a half dozen television specials for the world hunger relief organization Feed the Children and participated in food drops from Harlem to Fort Campbell to Nashville, further distinguishing themselves as public-spirited citizens of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, since 2004, they have donated their time and talents to perform shows at numerous American military bases, from Fort Knox to Fort Leonard Wood to Whiteman Air Force Base, as part of the Spirit of America tour; and

WHEREAS, when devastating tornadoes passed through several Middle Tennessee counties in 2006 and in 2008, the Oak Ridge Boys demonstrated considerable compassion for their fellow citizens and were among the first to volunteer to help their neighbors in Sumner and Macon counties with hands-on support and benefit concerts; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards or accolades, the Oak Ridge Boys received two prestigious awards in 1997, the National Music Council’s American Eagle Award for their

distinguished service to American Music and the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse National Voice Award in recognition of the group's work on behalf of our nation's children; and

WHEREAS, in October of 2000, they were inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and on June 1, 2001, presented with the highest honor bestowed by the Boy Scouts of America, the Silver Buffalo Award; and

WHEREAS, the International Entertainment Buyers Association presented the Oak Ridge Boys with the Living Legend Award on October 4, 2005, in recognition of the group's outstanding contributions to the entertainment industry; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2007, the city of Oak Ridge honored the group for its contribution as "ambassadors" by naming a street Oak Ridge Boys Way; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to join in celebrating the numerous contributions and significant accomplishments of Duane Allen, Joe Bonsall, William Lee Golden, and Richard Sterban, who, with their personal excellence and professional talents have brought honor to the Oak Ridge Boys; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Duane Allen, Joe Bonsall, William Lee Golden, and Richard Sterban of the legendary Oak Ridge Boys for playing a significant role in the growth of the music industry, bringing happiness to their countless fans, and for their meritorious service to the State and this country, as we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.